

REMARKS

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-22 were presented for examination. Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 10, 11 and 17-19 and cancelled claims 2, 12, and 20-22. Applicants request reconsideration of the claims in view the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and drawings as originally filed. Accordingly, applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on United States Patent No. 6,914,399 issued to Kushion et al.

Referring to claim 1, the claim includes among other limitations:
“if said voltage command exceeds said first voltage threshold, establishing a modified voltage command as substantially equivalent to said first voltage threshold, otherwise establishing a modified voltage command as substantially equivalent to said voltage command, wherein at least one of said voltage command and said first voltage threshold being based on temperature.”

Referring to Kushion et al., the reference is directed to a method for active deadtime control for an electric machine. Kushion et al., however, does not provide any teaching of generating voltage commands for a PM electric machine based on temperature or determining voltage thresholds for a PM electric machine based on temperature. Accordingly, Kushion et al. does not provide any teaching of : “if said voltage command exceeds said first voltage threshold, establishing a modified voltage command as substantially equivalent to said first voltage threshold, otherwise establishing a modified voltage command as substantially equivalent to said voltage command, wherein at least one of said voltage command and said first voltage threshold being based on temperature”, as recited in claim 1.

Because Kushion et al. does not teach each and every limitation of independent claim 1, and claims 3-6 which depend from claim 1, applicants submit that claims 1, and 3-6 are allowable over Kushion et al.

Referring to independent claim 7, the claim includes among other limitations: “computing a second voltage threshold for said electric machine based on another selected operating condition, said second voltage threshold corresponding to a selected minimum voltage for said electric machine at said another selected operating condition.” After reviewing Kushion et al., applicants have been unable to find any teaching of the foregoing limitations. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 7, and claims 8 and 9 which depend from claim 7, are allowable over Kushion et al.

Referring to independent claim 10, applicants have amended original claim 10 to include the limitations of dependent claim 12. Since the Examiner indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, applicants submit that claim 10, as amended, is allowable.

Referring to independent claim 17, the claim includes among other limitations: “if said voltage command is less than a second voltage threshold, said controller establishes said modified voltage command as substantially equivalent to said second voltage threshold, otherwise said controller establishes said modified voltage command as substantially equivalent to said voltage command, said second voltage threshold corresponding to a selected minimum voltage for said electric machine at a first selected operating condition.” After reviewing Kushion et al., applicants have been unable to find any teaching of the foregoing limitations. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 17, and claims 18 and 19 which depend from claim 17, are allowable over Kushion et al.

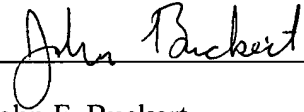
In view of the above amendments and the discussion related thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such

action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are additional charges with respect to this matter or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully Submitted,

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